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THE LOWERS COLLECTION

"EQUAL AND EXACT JUSTICE TO ALL."

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SWINGING 'ROUND THE CIRCLE.



Uncle Sam: "Grover, you're making me dizzy; why don't you use both oars and go straight ahead?"—National Bimetallist.

MR. TOBE SPILKINS.

HE THINKS POLITICS ARE VERY BADLY MIXED.

Makes Him Sweet to Keep Up—Would Leave the Democratic Party If He Did Not Want to Be Sheriff So Had—Describes Nineteen Kinds of Democrats

From Morgan's Buzz-Saw (Hardy, Ark.) Boney Forks.

(Which is in the State of Arkansas).

February the seventh, 1896.

Mistur Editor—Things is gittin' awfully mixed up. I'll be daddummed if I ain't gittin' tired of this politix bizness. If it wuzen't fur bein' sheriff I'd leev the dod datted party. It ain't no longer a solid falanx like it wuz when I cooden't git the nomina-shun fur nuthin'. Now when I kin git the nomina-shun fur a good off, the air quarilin' and fustin' like dogs and cats. I never wuz so puzzled to know how to be a Democrat in my life. There ain't no recete nor formulay that will suite all okkashuns. God knows I tri to be a Demkrat, fur I want to be heruff so bad, but it makes me sweat. The trubled now is I don't know which kind of a Demkrat to be. There is in my nollage nineteen kinds of Demkrats, as follows:

- The goldbug Demkrats.
- The free silver Demkrats.
- The national bank Demkrats.
- The government issue Demkrats.
- The high tariff Demkrats.
- The low tariff Demkrats.
- The tariff fur revenue Demkrats.
- The free trade Demkrats.
- The bond ishun' Demkrats.
- The anti-bond ishun' Demkrats.
- The home rool Demkrats.
- The federal trupes Demkrats.
- The grenabak Demkrats.
- The hard munny Demkrats.
- The "my daddy wuz" Demkrats.
- The inkum tacks Demkrats.
- The no inkum tacks Demkrats.
- The phool Demkrats whoo don't want off.
- The smart Demkrats whoo duz.
- There ma be sum uther varieeties, but I can't think of them now, and I hoap this won't git offend bekos I fale to menshun their partikular variety.

Now what puzzles me is whid air all these varieeties kum from? The cooden't kum from the same ansesturs, and it looks like sumbody has bin givin' awa' from hoam and krossin' the brede. Tha' hain't no differents betweens sum of these Demkrats and the Republikans. If sum of our leaders hain't bin sleepin' with Republikan harlots then I hain't no judg' on ophspring, and can't tell a mulatter from a ful bludded nigger, whitch I think I kin.

There wuz a time when you cood tel a Demkrat by the wa' he talked, but now you haf to see him vot' bet' you kin know. The only since left of old Democracy that kin be rekognized without identifikashun is our luv fur kisser and our inkalnasshun to luv the Republikans.

Under these tryin'-surkemstanses it is very diffikult to run fur offis with enny kind of satisfakshun. When a man runs fur offis he is expected to do sumthing. In order to git to be sheruff I cood kepe my mouth shut and be a nineteen-sided Demkrat, but to talk enny to speak uv and sute all kinds of Demkrats is a feat that is hard to do. I hain't bin thinkin' over this in this kampans, and have it wotd maik I am goin' to do. I think it will kiver all kinds of Demkrats and not maik enny uv 'em mad. Here is my speach in substans:

"Feller sitizens: I am no offis seeker like the daddummed Populists, but at the urgent solisitasshun uv myllions uv my frendz I hav konsented to leev my peaceful home and to loun fur the time bein' in okkupashun as a plain onest farmer, and bekum your kandidat fur the responsible offis uv sheruff. (Cheers.) Feller sitizens, in makin' this graat sacrifice, I want to sa I du it with du appreshashun uv the onerous dutize uv the offis to whitch I— I mene my frendz, hav asked me to aspire. You want to know, uv korse, bet you wait fur me what mi politix iz. I want to sa rite here the air list the salm as yours. (Great and tremendous applauze.) To the men who believe in a gold standard I want to sa, when Tobe Spilkins is sheruff, he will let you pa your fines and taxes in gold. (Not much applauze.) To the free silver men, you kin pa your's in silver, and the paper munny men kin pa their's in paper munny. (Applauze.) And to the men who hain't got enny munny at all, I want to sa I will take the taxes in koon skins and heffers. (Awful eels uv applauze.) Wild and enthusiashtic applauze. You and on the tariff. (Applauze.) I believe in a hi tariff on sum things, and a low tariff on sum things, and fre trade in sum things, and what tariff we have, adjusted fur revenue only. (Tremendous applauze.) I'm opposed to nashunl banks (applauze) eggscept when we think it iz necessary (applauze). I'm opposed to the ishue uv bonds (applauze) only when we neede munny. (Cheers.) I'm in favor uv home rool fur Demkrats (applauze) and federal trupes fur the Republikans and Populists. (Wild and enthusiashtic applauze.) I'm in favor uv them whoo want inkum tacks a havin' 't (applauze) and them whoo don't want it not havin' 't. (Applauze.) My daddy wuz a Demkrat (applauze) and I never scratched a ticket in my life. (Great eggcitement and loud cheerin'.) I luv the graat old Demkratrick party (applauze) with its brylant rekord and eminent statismen. (Applauze.) I will never see its banner trolled in the dust. (Loud cheers.) It's a graat old party. (Cheers.) It's got more prinseples 'tap than enny other party ever thought uv. (Cheers.) It stands redy to resev ennybody that wants to kum into its shelterin' fold, and it don't maik enny differents what he believes. (Cheers.) We have taken out patents on nineteen kinds of Demkrats and have patents for seven noar kinds applide fur. (No applauze.) Let every Demkrat du his duty. Boys, stand by the graat old party wunts moar. Let us vot' 'er strate. Let the seerds rank klose up and form a solid falanx whose majestick tread kin be heard from the rok bound shores uv Nu Ingland to the golden gait uv Kalforny, and from the shimmerin' laiks to the Gulf uv Meckskio. Let the band pla. (Loud and prolonged cheerin'.)

You see, I hav insurted the "cheers" and "applauze" at the proper plases, and when I am makin' my speach and kum to them I maik a sine to the uther kandidats, and tha' start the applauze. I think this is the best plan, as you air ulwaze shure uv the applauze and git it right whair it iz needed, and whair you want it. If that spech don't fetch 'em I don't know what will. It don't seem to me like ennybody cood find enny falt with it.

Seniter Jones and Governor Clark iz havin' a talkin' match in mi stait now. Tha' both want to be seniters. Clark kin beet Seniter Jones a spittin', and kin hold him a purty level rase a promisin' good things to the people, but I don't think Clark kin beet Jim Jones, becuz Jim has a bigger salary to spend than Clark. I hoap I'll git to be sheruff. Yours til the kows kum home.

TOBE SPILKINS.

Whoo wants to be sheruff.

SOME TIMELY TOPICS.

WHAT THE PEOPLE ARE SAYING AND DOING.

Ex-Gov. Campbell's Warning to the Democratic Party (All That Is Left of It)—He Will Be Found with the Populists at St. Louis.

Senator Blackburn has been away from his post of duty for three months trying to have himself re-elected as senator from Kentucky. During this time his salary has been going on at the rate of \$400 or \$500 a month, which the people have to pay. Likewise Senator Jones has been spending considerable time in Arkansas to the end of strengthening his political fences. It seems now that when a man is once elected to congress his sole object and greatest ambition is to keep right on succeeding himself.

This is all right but he should make his record in congress such that the people could not see their way clear to spare him or exchange for another. As it is the average congressman has to contend and indulge in the usual denunciations of the other fellows. A machine that needs to be constantly greased is a poor excuse at any rate. Think of a Webster, a Clay, or a Calhoun going home during the session of congress to tot their own horn for re-election. Verly American statesmanship has the dry rot.

We have before us a report for the agricultural department. It shows the corn crop of 1894 to be 65,582,000 acres, from which was gathered 1,212,770,000 bushels, worth \$254,719,000. The crop of 1895 was 60,075,830 acres, from which was gathered 2,151,139,000 bushels, worth only \$267,509,000. In other words 15,000,000 acres more in area, with about \$50,000,000 more bushels, in 1895, only brought \$12,000,000 more money than the crop of 1894. There's nothing like having something to sell, you know. With oats the farmer fared worse. And the potatoes about \$50,000,000 less for \$24,440,000 bushels in 1895 than he did for 63,088,929 bushels in 1894. The farmer has been producing on a falling market for twenty-five years, while the money lenders' crop has been advancing in value. And the farmer has been voting for so-called honest dollars instead of honest bushels.

Soon after the present congress met Congressman Joe Cannon, speaking of what would likely be accomplished, said: "There'll be a lot of fiddlin' an' talkin' an' resolutin' an' investigatin' an' bluffin' an' makin' faces, an' playin' buncombe, an' firin' the popular heart, but when we get through we'll find we have not done a blasted thing but pass the appropriation bills."

And this is just what congress has been doin' and is doin', and is all it intends to do.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat is worried over the action of the southern republicans. In a recent issue it says: "If the southern republicans would fight the democrats with as much energy as they fight one another, their party would have more reason to point to them with pride."

The trouble with the southern republicans is that they have nothing to fight for but apolis there is not enough of that to go around. The republicans in the south stand about as much show as a one-legged man would in a foot-race.

Of course there are a few localities where they succeed in electing county officers. But it only results in another set of men drawing the salaries. When a republican president is elected the Federal pie counter is also open to aspirants—and there's no dearth of them. Then during a presidential year a delegate's vote is worth something. It has a market value—sometimes it has two expected to furnish a single electoral vote, but all presidential aspirants look to the southern field as a more or less profitable one to invest what spare cash he has. It is sometimes reported that the man who buys last buys best. This is perhaps the reason there is so much wrangling among the southern republicans.

Ex-Gov. Campbell has warned the democratic party of the dangers which beset it. "I say it with firmness," he exclaims, "for it is my unqualified belief that should the party be split at the Chicago convention, it will then and there meet its death." It was in the national democratic convention in 1892 that Henry Watterson said that if Cleveland was nominated the party would "march through the slaughter house to an open grave." The slaughter house scene has been experienced, and now in the defection in the party which promises a split at the Chicago convention, it is the "open grave" which Gov. Campbell sees. But how to avoid it is the question. Cleveland, Carlisle and Co. are riding the party with a rough standard road at a furious rate. Senators Jones, Vest, Harris and others, it is true, have bound themselves to the flying chariot, and declared their purpose to follow it to the jumping-off place. But there are Tillman, Bryan and others who are not so pliable. The question now is will they bolt the Chicago convention? And what influence will it have on the rank and file if they do?

Missouri will send a free silver delegation to the Chicago convention, but it will do no good, as a straddle on the silver question is all it can expect.

The Omaha platform is a very good document. What we need most is manhood to contend for it.

SOME TIMELY TOPICS.

HOSTS FOR SILVER.

THE PEOPLE ARE WINNING RIGHT AND LEFT.

A Valiant Fight Being Waged Against the English Gold Standard—Advocates of "Sound" Money Becoming Alarmed.

Silver Prohibitionists.

The Ohio prohibition state convention, at its recent meeting at Findlay, occupied considerable time in discussing the financial plank in the platform, as reported by the committee on resolutions. The free silver men were successful, and the convention declared in favor of free coinage at a ratio of 16 to 1. The platform declared in favor of an income tax, woman suffrage, government control of railroads and telegraphs, and maintenance that import duties should be levied only as a means of securing equitable commercial relations with other nations.

No Show for the "Bosses."

The silver men will have six hundred or more votes in the national convention and they will be able to nominate a free coinage man without resorting to a repeal of the two-thirds rule. It is not believed that Whitney and Brice will be able to change any votes in the convention. Whitney has announced himself for Russell, of Massachusetts, but, with the democrats like it has been with the republicans, the favorite son game will not work in the politics of this year. The administration people are not only trying to bring out favorite son candidates in the northern states for president, but after chasing after the delusive hope of breaking the silver vote in the south by proposing many southern men for vice president.

None of these schemes will be of avail. Within the next two weeks it will be clearly demonstrated that the free coinage democrats will control the convention and will nominate for president a man who is known to stand squarely upon that platform.

To Boom Bland.

The free coinage democrats of Missouri have set in motion a plan to capture the Kentucky delegation to the Chicago convention for Bland. A conference to this end was held at the Capital by leading free coinage democrats, including nearly all the Missouri delegates to Chicago.

Governor Stone was made chairman. Letters were read from prominent Kentuckians and others. All the speakers thought Kentucky could be secured for Bland and that the effect of dourning the administration goldbugs in Carlisle's own state would secure Bland's nomination.

It was resolved to draw upon township clubs for a lobby delegation of 10,000 shouting Missourians. An executive session followed. State Treasurer Stevens opened the question of revising the two-thirds rule in the national convention. It was decided that if a free coinage majority was elected the rule should be changed to get a nomination by a majority and thus make enny goin' for Bland.

A committee consisting of Governor Stone and five associates was appointed to push the Bland boom in every quarter.

Governor Stone has accepted several invitations to speak in Kentucky, his native state.

Sam Inman on Currency.

Mr. S. M. Inman, a prominent Atlanta business man, and well known throughout the south, was interviewed in April of last year, just a few months ago—by the Cincinnati Enquirer, and the following is clipped from that paper:

"Do the southern planters feel that their interests lie in the rehabilitation of silver in the same ratio that the western farmer content is it will benefit him?" And to this question Mr. Inman replied:

"If I know the southern planters there is a more profound sentiment in favor of silver among them than in almost any part of the country. With the silver currency would be hailed as a blessing though it drove gold from circulation and to a premium. The older ones remember the times after the war when on account of the premium on gold the exporters who drew against cotton in gold paid 3 to 5 cents per pound additional for their cotton on account of this premium. The money paid them was the money of their country—the money that paid their taxes, paid their labor, bought their supplies and paid their debts. They argue that if gold was at a premium of 40 now, instead of receiving 5 to 6 cents for cotton they would receive 7 to 8 cents, and the difference to the planters on this cotton crop would have been \$100,000,000 in their favor; that many more dollars would have gone into the southern states and though they might not have had equal purchasing power with gold it would have made a marvelous difference in the feelings of the men who toiled and would have saved many a man from the sheriff. Even if the silver was like the silver of Mexico, worth only one-half as much as gold, the present crop would have sold for \$250,000,000 more of these dollars than it has. From the planter's standpoint he would prefer \$50 per bale instead of \$25 for his cotton, even if the dollars were not quite so good. It is especially so with the poorer classes of cotton producers, who, under the best conditions, have a hard life of it. After a year of hard work, such as men in more comfortable positions know very little about, and after selling his cotton for less than it costs him to make it, his children bare

foot and in need of the actual necessities of life, this man would prefer to have double the amount of money he has received, even if the dollars are of less value, and even if, as he is told, the so-called 'honor' of the government and the trade relations of our country with other governments were a little strained.

"I am not discussing the matter in the abstract. I am only talking of the feeling of the planters I meet in every day life. They admit that the gold standard is a very great blessing to the man who has the gold, but to the man the product of whose labor is measured by gold, the blessing is not so apparent. On the contrary, he thinks that the single gold standard is something of a curse, and while he cannot be certain whether a debased silver currency would make his condition any better, he at least is willing to try the experiment. It may be that more prosperous times may change the views of these men, but from what I know of their feelings on the subject now, they are going to act and vote for any party that shows unqualified friendship for silver. The repeal of the Sherman law gave them disappointing results. The abortive tariff tinkering has not been as beneficial as they had hoped. These questions for the time being settled, they are going to hunt for a still further remedy for their trouble. I am not discussing my personal views, but simply give you, as far as I can judge, the sentiments of the men upon whose prosperity rests the south. If I have mistaken their feelings, time will develop it, but I have kept in pretty close contact with the producers of what are especially known as the cotton states, and do not think I can be mistaken about the almost universal opinion at this time."

Hot Shot From Altgeld.

Gov. Altgeld has written an open letter in reply to the speech on the money question recently delivered at Chicago by Secretary Carlisle. He begins by quoting from Mr. Carlisle's statement in 1878, in which the latter declared that the demonetization of silver which he characterized as a "conspiracy," would ultimately entail more misery upon the human race than all the wars, pestilence and famine that ever occurred. The absolute and instantaneous destruction of half the movable property of the world, including horses, ships, railroads and all other appliances for carrying on commerce, while it would be felt more sensibly at the moment, would not produce anything like the prolonged distress and disorganization of society that must inevitably result from the permanent annihilation of one-half the metallic money of the world.

Commenting upon this Governor Altgeld says:

"It will be seen that this language is clear and emphatic and has none of the sophistry and pettifoggery about it that are found in his Chicago speech. His awful predictions, made in 1878, came to pass. He not only saw his own prophecy fulfilled, but he saw the misery of his country become even greater than he had predicted. Finding that his views had been correct, he continued to hold them until he entered Mr. Cleveland's cabinet, when, in some mysterious manner, there was a change of heart, but for some reason he seems unwilling to talk about it. There are two other members of the cabinet, Hoke Smith, of Georgia, and Herbert, of Alabama, who, like Carlisle, have made their voices heard for nearly a lifetime denouncing the great conspiracy that struck it down, and strange to say, when these two men entered Cleveland's cabinet they underwent a change of heart, and, like Carlisle, they avoid talking about it. Why should Carlisle throw a little light on this question?"

"All these men now denounce the people who are opposed to the single gold standard as scoundrels and lunatics; yet they are only following the doctrines which Carlisle and company preached. Are we to infer that Mr. Cleveland and his two cabinet associates they got to be old men, and that the tinsel of a cabinet position not only made them honest, but gave them brains? Carlisle then enunciates several questions which he says Mr. Carlisle should have answered, among them being this:

"Why it was that for 200 years gold and silver held the market ratio of about 15 to 1, while the ratio fixed by law was 15 to 1 in some countries, 15 to 1 in most countries, and for a while 16 to 1 in our country? Why it was that in every country where silver was stricken down, it was done by the arbitrary act of the government, and that neither commerce nor business had anything to do with it? As there cannot be a general rise in prices without an increase in the volume of money, must not the present parity system and stagnation continue until the volume of money is again restored to what it was before silver was stricken down?"

Referring to the recent bond issues Governor Altgeld charges that the president enabled a friend and former client in association with some fellow speculators to make \$9,000,000 to \$10,000,000 out of the government in a few weeks in a small bond transaction under the pretext that "the sharks of Wall street" had agreed to protect the government against gold raids until the following November. That is, the wealthiest, the most enterprising, the most powerful, the most industrious and the most thrifty nation on the globe paid tribute to a small band of speculators for "protection."

The British Gold Standard.

The man who avors the scheme of the gold standardists is certainly pursuing the course best calculated to op-

press farmers of the south; to force them to a slavery worse than that endured by the blacks, and to keep them and their children in perpetual and abject poverty.

He who desires in his heart to "crush out" the old confederate veteran, his children and their neighbors, could not possibly attain his object more certainly and thoroughly than by joining the army of John Sherman, and help to fight our people, beneath the folds of the British gold standard.

There was created three billion dollars of war debt and many more billions of debts prior to 1873, and before the gold standard was adopted. All this vast indebtedness was contracted in what is called "unsound money"—dollars that were worth in comparison with the present gold dollar from 66 cents to 164 cents; thus we are paying from three times to six times the original value of the dollar, and not only this but every old veteran with a family to support is forced to pay more to the current expenses of the government and the war debt than many millionaires in the east pay. I doubt not but that each and every old one-legged or one-armed veteran in Georgia today and every laborer are paying more of the union war debt and current expenses of the national government than Hetty Green, who is said to own \$30,000,000 of bonds, which are exempt from taxation.

God said: "In the sweat of thy face, shalt thou eat thy bread," and there was never a better or more correct standard of values than that. Every man who honestly toils is entitled to the fruits of his labor, and the schemers or government that deprives him of it and forces from him more and more of his products for the same dollar, until double, triple and six times as much is taken, is nothing more nor less than a robber.

In 1864 the citizen could pay his \$100 obligation with 33 1-3 Mexican silver dollars. The Union soldier received his pay on the same scale. In 1873 the speculators had the measure increased by which they reaped about 3 for 1 invested. In 1894 they so skillfully manipulated the measure that it held six times as much as the measure held in 1864; and the debt that could be paid in 1864 with 100 pounds of cotton, or 562 pounds in 1873, required in 1894 1,550 pounds of cotton; and this is called "honest" and "sound money" measurement; and although the farmer's acre, and seed, and day's toil, will produce no more cotton now than it would in 1873 and 1864, yet he is told that this trickery and measure is honest and better for him and his family struggling under an immense load of public and private debt. At the same time this tale is whispered into the unsuspecting ears of the farmer; the salaried man is told by them that he should by all means favor the scheme of robbing the producer, for his products for half price. The salaried man and wage-earner is not told that by this scheme they, too, are paying war debts, customs, taxes, pensions, interest, etc., at the same rate the farmer pays; but they are persuaded that the gold standard was devised and is maintained solely in their interest and that poor Wall street and the patriotic owners of government obligations really don't care for it, only to help the people.

All the money from the United States from Washington to Lincoln, believed in and practiced bimetallism. They favored silver equally with gold. They did not believe in a system that permitted speculators to corner one metal and thereby have the people at their mercy, and force them to sacrifice their property and labor to pay government obligations and private contracts; but if gold was cornered it was then their privilege to pay silver; and the speculator being thus matched would not attempt to corner by and force it up to 200, as is now the case. But it seems that Wall street has exercised most potent influence on all the presidents since Grant. It is useless to undertake to satisfy the masses that it is to their interest to play at a game that enables the classes to accumulate immense fortunes at their expense, and while they, the masses, are growing poorer all the time.

There is not as much property value in the United States now as there was in 1864, when Mr. Cleveland was first elected president. The classes have many millions more now than then; the masses have not so much by many millions of dollars. How can it be accounted for? Has God been unkind and neglectful to us? Has He withheld his rains and sunshine? Has He sent famines, pestilences, war, and poured out His wrath upon us? No; He has done just the reverse in all these things. Then what has sent distress, desolation and want all over our land? Does not the eight object lessons above offer an explanation to the trouble? Verily "man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands to mourn." Low prices mean distress and privation to the producer, and Dun & Co. report the lowest range of prices this month that ever prevailed in the United States. Low prices also react on labor, for where there is distress and prostration in agriculture other laborers will experience its baleful effects. Who is benefited by it except the speculator and those who are thus in position to grind down upon the producer in buying and corner and extort upon the customer?

"Blessed is he that considereth the poor."—J. W. GOLDSMITH, of Atlanta Constitution.

Gresham's Remains Disinterred.

The remains of ex-Secretary of State Gresham were disinterred at Chicago Thursday for the purpose of being interred at Washington, D. C.

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